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A synopsis submitted
for the research work leading to the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy
In English entitled

WRITING AND REWRITING OF MYTHS: A STUDY OF SELECT FICTION BY AMISH TRIPATHI AND ANAND NEELKANTAN

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Introduction:

The genre fiction has been perennial mode of writing to make better human beings. The history of fictional writing is as old as the history of literature itself. Right from ancient Greek literature to the present, the fictional writing has undergone many changes. In the beginning it was written with the aim of telling a story or to tell sacred text's short tales and stories. Gradually it became strong medium of expression as form of literature. It always attempts to show the unknowable reality of others inner lives and moving through a world in which their interior experience is as significant as their exterior action. It often deals with the popular themes like love, life, mystery, marriage, family, politics, morality, faith, betrayal, politics, history, religion, culture, good vs. evil, lives of gods and deities, kings and queens etc.

The genre also has shown profound interest and fascination for mythology. As well it has been effective means to portray human imagination, creativity to understand past and prediction of future from epics to poetry, to novels and other literary forms. Myths have pervaded every genre transgressing the boundaries of age, culture and language.

The Indian Context:

Indian literature is no exception as it feeds the ardent desire of Indians to be enriched by myths, mythology, legends, and folklore. It has an integral part of literature and other arts, and has been indispensable ingredient of all cultures and religions as well. Myths are continually modified and renewed by the modification of history though Indian mythology has rested its permanent influence on Indian literature as a whole Indian fiction in English.

In country like India, the twenty first century era can be seen as many texts are written in English with the use of myths in prominent way. The whole tradition of rewriting Indian myth in English began with Ashok Bankar, Amit Tripathi, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, Devdutt Patnaik, Anand Neelkantan, Nilanjan P.Chaudhury, Kavita kane etc. Have effectively written myths in innovative and untraditional way. With the above approach study has undertaken myths in select fiction of Amish Tripathi, and Anand Neelkantan, Are foremost trending and popular Indian English fiction writers who utilize myths creatively and looking towards new perspective as non-conformal way with various subjects like the God as an ordinary beings, deities or such revered

characters of women in feministic lens, ecological pollution, conflict of power, counter storytelling and social issues through mythical system. This rewriting can be seen as one of the aspects of contemporary time of globalization process which address the cultural identity crisis among modern Indian readers. However the present work proposes to investigate the themes, critical analysis of the text and the study would be fruitful in order to understand changing writing perspectives and patterns, desire of readers in modern times.

The present study aims at analyzing certain texts with the view of their treatment to mythological stories, these myths are integral part of Indian society, customs and belief system. The philosophy and principles emerging as preaching and teaching have affected lives of people in India, they do not however limit themselves to Hinduism only but, also offer distinct commentary on human life in general thus becoming moral and social principle for over-all humanity. This study would analyze writings and rewriting of these myths and will discuss in detail how certain meaning and applications are used in narrative techniques and storytelling technique in order to interpret the myths in finer way.

Review of Literature:

The available books on Indian mythology will be useful for the present study to understand interpretations of respective authors in particular as well interviews on T.V. shows, Youtube Podcasts will be used for secondary sources of the study. Devdutt Pattnaik's *The Stories We Tell: Mythology to Make Sense of Modern Lives* (2022) make more familiar to new generation regarding mythology. His another book *Decoding Hindu Mythology* (2008) helps to complex Indian Mythical system, with this texts, reputed journals, and articles will be for the present research work.

Brief elaboration of thesis statement:

As literature has witnessed ups and downs of human civilization. Perhaps literature is most vital means to record the over-all change, to evaluate human response to it, to offer commentary on the reasons and consequences of the change, to make human mind aware of every possibility of ways experiencing'. All the genre of literature like poetry, prose, fiction and drama, fiction has been playing its role in the work of record. The genre has flourishes from middle age and established invisible contract between writers and their readers, as time passes the genre accepts the changes to the present time. It is pleasing to discover that how the genre is taking place in myths especially in the context of Indian mythological writing.

Hypothesis:

1. Amish Tripathi reinterprets Indian mythology in order to understand rational approach of myths and its applications.
2. Anand Neeelkantan counter the mythological characters having grey shades
3. It may change the view to see mythological women as submissive characters only
4. The study may give present generation to read mythology to the scientific point of view
5. This study may help to find out the secrets of technology used in the weapons, architecture, medicine in the fiction under the study

Objectives of the study:

The present research work has following objectives:

1. To analyze the text under study in the light of mythology
2. To have a critical analysis of select fiction of respective authors and treatment to mythology
3. To have detail investigation of writing and rewriting of select fiction.
4. To offer commentary on overall writing of select fiction and myths and its treatment by authors.
5. To offer interconnections of the issues and systematic theoretical analyses with symbolism thematic elements and aesthetic value.

Research methodology:

Research methodology proposed to be implemented of the research work is of descriptive type. It aims to study the select the authors with critical analyses of the issues in texts. The activity includes library work and web based work based on the resources material both print and electronic resources.

Standards set by MLA Handbook of Research Methodology will strictly be followed for proper citation for the present study

Tentative chapter scheme:

Chapter 1: Introduction.

Chapter 2: Interpretation of myth writing and rewriting of *Ram: Scion of Ikshvaku* And *Sita: Warrior of Mithila*

Chapter 3*:* Interpretation of myth writing and rewriting of *Rawan Enemy of Aryavarta* And *War of Lanka*

Chapter 4: Interpretation of myth writing and rewriting of *Asura: Tale Of The Vanquished*: *The Story of Ravana and His People*

Chapter 5: Conclusion.

The **First chapter** will give a brief outline of the research work. It will also deal with the background of survey of thematic concern in literature. It would attempt to pose the variety of presentation of the themes and indicate significance of the study. The aspect are the integral part of the work. Therefore opening chapter would try to give the entire general background about work. It would also offer author's biographical details, contribution and style.

The **Second Chapter** entitled Amish Tripathi's Ram Chandra series first text *Ram, Scion of Ikshvaku* and the second text Sita*: Warrior of Mithila* interpretation of myth writing and rewriting of same.

The **Third chapter** deals with select fiction *Rawana: Enemy of Aryavarta* and *War of Lanka* would study about the counter telling mythology writing and rewriting of myths.

The **Fourth chapter** would study select fictions of Aanad Neelkantan *Asura: Tale of The Vanquished: The Story of Ravana and His People* the counter telling mythology writing and rewriting of myths.

The **Fifth Chapter** will be the conclusion based on the previous chapters. It will discuss the inter connections of the theme and relevance. It will provide scope for the future research.

Relevance of the study to the society:

The present study holds significant relevance to academic world of literary analysis in particular and society in general, the growing tendency among common people regarding myths, religious principles, religious stories, morality principles signify that very large part of society firmly believe and follow the age long principles both social and religious which are embedded and travel through myths.

These myths define our moral characters and the way which we interpret our lives and bring out tolerant and meaningful way of living our life. The present study analyzes myth and their rewriting as to understand how over the time the interpretation of these myth in general and rewriting of them in particular have undergone changes due to a very relevant context to society. The present study will be a fruitful exercise to understand the importance of myths and mythology in social belief system as well it would help to all the knowledge branch in order to understand social, political, historical conditions and status of lives. This would also help to know glory of Indian literature, culture and philosophy

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